

From: Jeff Miller
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 1:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm writing to express my support for the currently proposed settlement in the Microsoft Antitrust case. As the case progressed, it has been my feeling that many of the central issues that caused this case are not supported by facts.

I purchased my first PC in 1990. At the time, it was a middle of the road system, and cost about \$2,500. It did not include any application programs that I needed. I had to purchase Lotus 1-2-3 or Microsoft Excel separately, and the cost for either program was around \$600. The PC itself was powered by a 286 CPU, had 1 megabyte of RAM, and a 20 megabyte hard drive.

Today, I can purchase a PC with a Pentium III or 4 CPU, 256 megabytes of RAM, a 20 gigabyte hard drive, and a CD-ROM drive that comes with an application suite like Microsoft Office for less than \$1,000. Such a PC would simply dwarf my original PC in terms of computing power and functionality.

This has occurred because Microsoft has led the way in creating an operating system that is the standard for personal computing. The marketplace has chosen Windows because it has drastically lowered all costs associated with PC's. Microsoft has been knocked for bundling functionality into Windows. Doing so has continued the trend of lowering PC costs. And while there is no doubt that such bundling has adversely affected some competitors, in my mind there is no doubt that it has greatly benefited consumers who can now afford computers that were out of reach ten years ago.

In summary, while I think prosecution of this case was unwarranted and any solution is unnecessary, given the current status of this case, the proposed settlement seems the best resolution possible.

Sincerely,

Jeff Miller
Redmond, WA
(not employed by Microsoft or connected with Microsoft in any way)